

Public Comments on Aviation Communications:=====

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Comment: What people don't understand is that without 406 beacons it can take us search and rescuers days to even figure out that a plane has crashed. when an airplane crashes with a 406 beacon it sends a powerful 5 watt signal to LEOSAR and GEOSAR satellites . when that happens the pilots name airplane and specific GPS data is sent to the afrcc and they alert us. we go out and have a TON of information. we find you and save you. the process of SAR getting alerted can take up too an hour or two. the other option is a plane crashes with a 121.5 only beacon and assuming the pilot did not file a flight plan he is at the mercy of whoever is listening. sure FSS and some commercial airliners listen but an air traffic controller must wait a certain number of reports before they can report it to the AFRCC. this usually takes at least 4-5 hours, now after being told that we have a 121.5 beacon and an area to search (which can be 3 counties big) thats all the information we have. with the 406 beacons we have the pilots name phone number plane details, any specific instructions from the pilot and a specific area to look for him. after hearing that you tell me that 121.5 beacons are just as effective as 406 beacons. please help me help you, when i go on a rescue mission i will be able to help you faster if i have more information. if canada can make 406 beacons manditory so can we. outlaw 121.5 only beacons and help me help you.

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